MAR 12 1990

American Chemical Services, Griffith, IN. Removal Assessment
Project No. J7

Robert J. Bowden, Chief
EERB

John Kelly, Acting Chief
RERB

As a result of the Administrator's 90 day Management Review of the Superfund Program, the Emergency & Enforcement Response Branch conducted a site inspection of the subject NPL site to determine if any immediate removal actions are appropriate.

Attached is a copy of the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) report on this inspection.

American Chemical Services is an active solvent reclamation facility which also manufactures organic chemicals on a small scale. There is a landfill for process wastes and wastes from an incinerator which was closed and capped during 1972. The site is adequately fenced.

The site is surrounded by landfills and there is an active municipal landfill adjacent to it. There is a complex leachate problem in the area and the upper aquifer has been contaminated with VOCs.

Some private drinking water supplies have been effected but alternative sources of drinking water have been provided.

The site is secure and this is no surface contact threat. Water supplies have been affected but alternates have been provided. There is no basis for a removal action at this time.

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE REMOVAL AND PREVENTION
EPA CONTRACT 68-01-7367

Mr. Duane Heaton
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Emergency Support Section, 5 HS-12
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

March 1, 1990

TAT-05-G2-01575

Re: American Chemical Services, Griffith, Indiana
TDD# 5-8910-15

Dear Mr. Heaton:

On October 24, 1989, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) tasked the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) to review the American Chemical Services (ACS) National Priorities List (NPL) site for a possible removal action. TAT reviewed available files and consulted with appropriate U.S. EPA officials. This letter report summarizes the TAT investigation.

The ACS site, located in Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, is an active solvent reclamation facility (Figure 1). The site is bordered by the Griffith Landfill and Kapica Drum, Inc. to the south, by Colfax Avenue to the east, and by C & O Rail Line to the north.

ACS began operating in May 1955 as a solvent reclamation facility and later began limited chemical production. In May 1972, ACS began producing "amotone", a gasoline additive, and in early 1974, ACS began manufacturing "epoxol", a plasticizer. Both materials are currently being produced, but the main operation remains as solvent recovery.

ACS operated a small landfill on site from 1955 to 1972. General refuse and approximately 25,000 drums of unreclaimed waste were landfill. In the early 1960's leachate problems were associated with the landfill, but have since decreased. From 1968 to 1970 ACS operated an incinerator on site. Wastes generated from manufacturing and solvent recovery processes, as well as off site wastes, were accepted for incineration. The incinerator burned an estimated 2 million gallons of wastes per year. The waste produced from the incinerator was also deposited in the landfill. ACS discontinued the use of its landfill in 1972, and the fill was capped with a two to three foot layer of soil. Access to the site is restricted by fences.

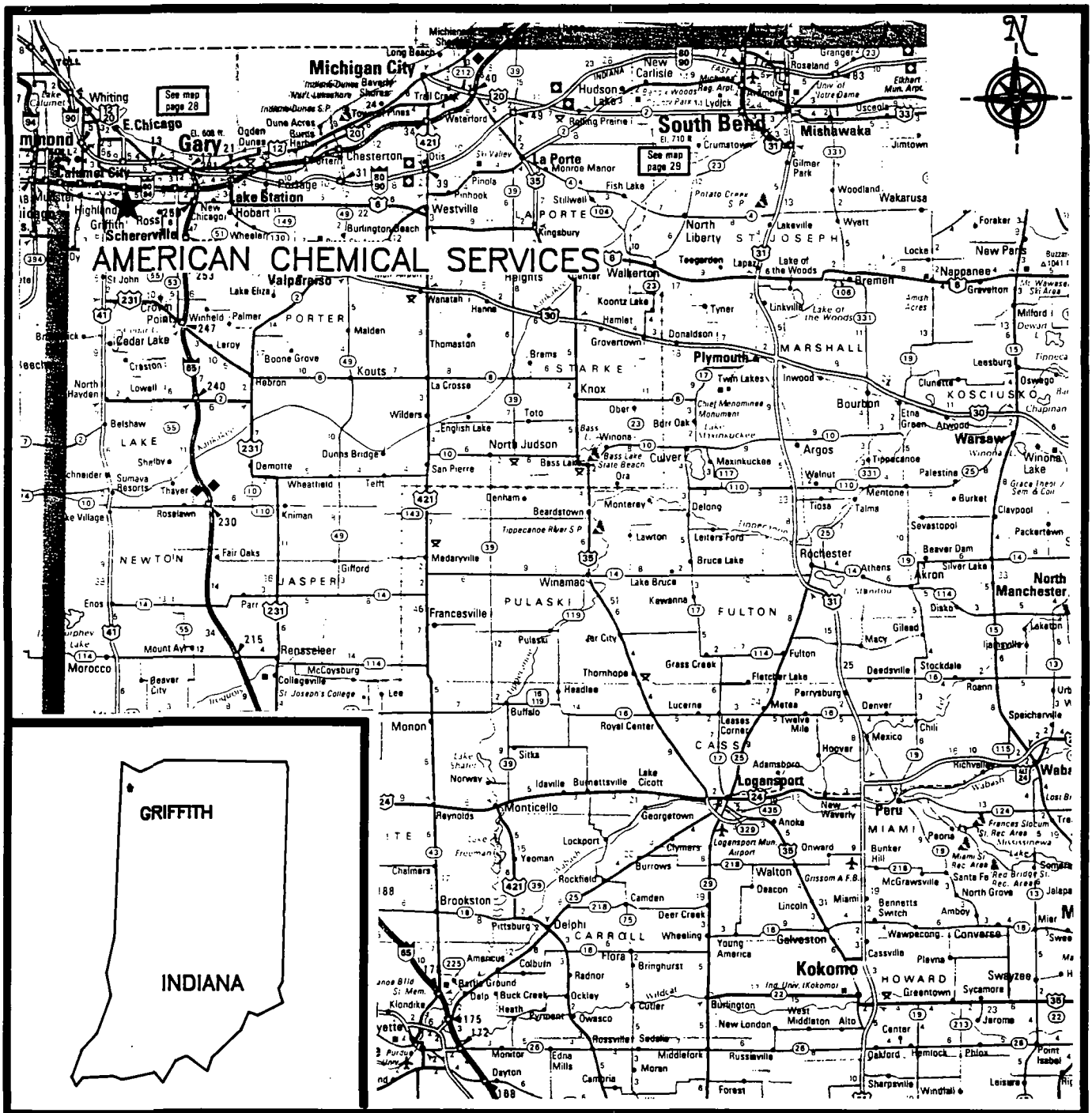

FIGURE 1

SITE LOCATION MAP

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SERVICES

GRIFFITH, INDIANA

SCALE 1 INCH=20 MILES

WESTON MANAGERS DESIGNERS/CONSULTANTS

MAJOR PROGRAMS DIVISION

REGION V TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM

DRAWN BY	DATE	PCS #
MSP	11-01-89	2439
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In July 1982, the U.S. EPA Field Investigation Team (FIT) examined possible ground water contamination from the ACS site. The study documented that the ground water flows in a northwesterly direction. Three of the four test wells, which were located on or near the ACS landfill, indicated the presence of a variety of organic substances, principally volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

On May 31, 1989, the U.S. EPA Emergency Response Branch tasked the TAT to conduct a site assessment at the Griffith landfill adjacent to the ACS facility (TDD#5-8905-25). The TAT collected leachate, ground water, and soil samples from the newly excavated landfill. The samples were analyzed for acid and base/neutrals (ABNs), pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and VOCs by Grace Analytical Lab under TAT Analytical Services TDD# 5-8905-L10.

Numerous VOCs were detected in the water and soil samples. However, the majority of the compounds were also detected in the field blanks, rendering the VOC data unusable.

ABN analysis indicated the presence of di-n-butylphthalate (20.4 ppb) in sample #1, and 4-methylphenol (54.3 ppb), benzoic acid (104 ppb), naphthalene (33.8 ppb), dimethylphthalate (1.28 ppb), diethylphthalate (6.93 ppb), di-n-butylphthalate (2.15 ppb), and butylbenzylphthalate (22.3 ppb) in sample #2. No compounds were detected in the soil sample.

Neither pesticides nor PCBs were detected above method detection limits in the water and soil samples.

On October 30, 1989, the TAT interviewed Remedial Project Manager (RPM) Bob Swale concerning the status of the ACS facility. RPM Swale indicated that the nearest residence to the site is 3/4 of a mile and there are two aquifers of concern. The majority of the residents (10,000) draw from the lower aquifer. The aquifers are separated by a reportedly continuous 15-25 foot clay layer. Monitoring wells have been established and have indicated the presence of various VOCs. Residential wells have also been sampled for VOCs. Analytical results, however, indicated all levels to be undetectable. RPM Swale indicated that all residents drawing from the upper aquifer use the water for only gardening, car washing, etc. These particular residents are either drinking bottled water or are obtaining municipal water.

Based on TAT observations and background information, the following criteria as outlined in Section 300.65(b)(2) of the National Contingency Plan (NCP) that determine appropriateness of a removal action exist at the ACS site.

- Actual or potential exposure to hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants by nearby populations, animals or food chain;
- Actual or potential contamination of drinking water supplies or sensitive ecosystems;
- Hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants in drums, barrels, tanks or other bulk storage containers, that may pose a threat of release;
- High levels of hazardous substances of pollutants or contaminants in soils largely at or near the surface that may migrate.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

ROY F. WESTON, INC.

Robert A. Young
Environmental Scientist

William R. Doyle
Technical Assistance Team
Leader, Region V

RAY:dn
cc: B. Bowden